

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

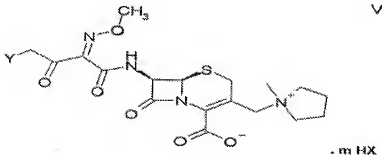
Claim 1. (Cancelled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the compounds of formula II are produced from their respective mono- or di- hydrogen halide adducts the compound of formula IIA or IIB is a compound of formula IIA wherein n is 1 or 2.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-iodide monohydrate is used.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxy-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-chloride or pyrrolidinium-1-[(7-amino-2-carboxylato-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-yl)methyl]-dihydrochloride is used, optionally in solvated form.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended). A compound of formula V[[,]]



wherein Y and X are Cl.

Claim 6 (Original). A compound as claimed in claim 5 in crystalline form wherein the compound of formula V is in free base or acid addition salt form.

Claim 7 (Original). A compound as claimed in claim 6 having an X-ray powder diffraction pattern substantially as that shown in Figure 1 or Figure 2.

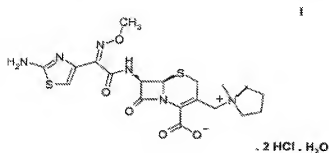
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Claim 8 (Currently Amended). A process according to claim 19, wherein 4-chloro-2-methoxyimino-3-oxo-butyryl chloride is used as the reactive derivative of formula III.

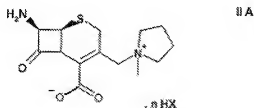
Claim 9 (Currently Amended). A process as claimed in claim 19, wherein prior to precipitation or crystallisation of the compound of formula I, any bromide or iodide ions that may be present are removed by ion exchange.

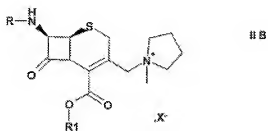
Claims 10 – 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (New). A process for producing a compound of formula I



wherein a compound of formula IIA or IIB





wherein

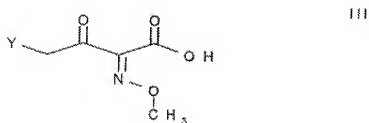
R₁ is a trialkylsilyl group,

R is hydrogen or a trialkylsilyl group,

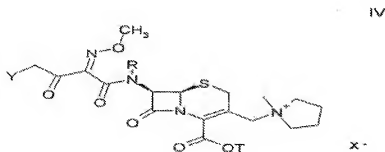
n is 0 - 2 and

X signifies chloride, bromide or iodide

is reacted with a reactive derivative of formula III

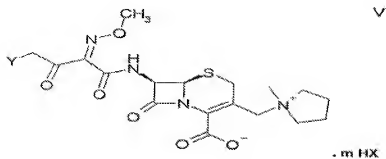


wherein Y signifies halogen or a leaving group, to form a compound of formula IV or V



wherein T is trialkylsilyl, the silyl protecting groups, if present, are removed, or the compound of formula IV as the acid addition salt of formula V is isolated wherein m is 0 or 1 and the compound of formula IV

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or the compound of formula V is cyclised with thiourea, and subsequently the compound of formula I is isolated.